

The Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services is considering whether the current Human Rights regulations, 12 VAC35 115, should be revised to assure human rights protections related to the health, safety and welfare of individuals receiving services from providers licensed, funded or operated by the Department are effectively administered. With the most recent regulatory revision to the 12 VAC 35-115, the specific rights detailed within the regulations do not need to be modified; rather revisions would focus on enhancing the process for assuring these rights are protected and reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on individuals receiving services and public and private providers, through simplifying the current administrative process and make it easier to understand and more user friendly.

Last fall, a plan for gaining meaningful constituent feedback was developed and approved by an advisory team made up of representatives from the major stakeholder groups. The Department has engaged Old Dominion University (ODU) to conduct the surveys, interviews and focus groups to ascertain community feedback regarding possible improvements to the current administrative process for assuring the protection of human rights while minimizing regulatory burdens, where possible. If you are interested in participating in the ODU initiative, please email ODU at ssrc@odu.edu.

If you would like to offer the Department suggestions for streamlining the administrative process for assuring the protection of human rights or have identified an opportunity to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens for individuals receiving services and public and private providers, [please click here](#) to email your suggestions to the Department.

The Department anticipates that the State Board may consider proposed regulatory changes as early as this summer. The public will have an opportunity to comment on any changes that the Board decides to propose in the Human Rights regulations, after an Executive branch review of the proposed changes has been completed and the proposed changes have been released for public review and comment. In addition, during this public comment period, the State Board will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the changes being proposed.